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## Neck of the World

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Published by Utah State University Press

Rzicznek, F. Daniel.

Neck of the World.

Utah State University Press, 2007.

Project MUSE.[muse.jhu.edu/book/9411](https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9411).



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## BOOK OF LETTERS REVERSED

In those pages there's full darkness  
and in those long fields, rowing  
backwards through the earth, badgers.  
And over the movements of plants  
about to grow their yearly auras,  
a borrowed moon has kept ahead  
of a woman and man as they walk,  
the man thinking *the stars must be knots  
of thread*, the woman: *black sand  
behind the stars, black as the back  
of his mouth*. Floating glovelike  
in the moonlight three geese sharpen  
their bodies along fake terraces of wind.  
“Lusting for lust,” the man says,  
“the birds foglike, disappearing.”  
The woman kneels to a path trampled  
with broken stalks, bloodied fur. As if  
in a drafty, well-lit room, the stars  
bristle and the badgers freeze.  
Some of the darkness begins to laugh.